

A NEW SPECIES OF *ISOPLASTUS* FROM MEXICO
(LEIODIDAE: LEIODINAE)

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Isoplastus* Horn, *I. uncus*, is described from Mexico, extending the geographic range of the genus into Central America.

Sifting forest floor litter in the vicinity of Fortin de las Flores produced a new species of *Isoplastus* which greatly resembles *I. fossor* Horn in general appearance.

Isoplastus uncus Wheeler, New Species

Holotype. Male. Mexico: State of Veracruz, Fortin de las Flores, 28-VI-1975, Q. D. Wheeler, in sifted forest floor litter, (MCZC) (1).

Diagnosis. *Isoplastus uncus* is distinguished by a pair of hooked processes at the apex of the aedeagal internal sac (fig. 1).

Description. Body broadly oval, very convex, slightly contractile, rufo-testaceous, and shining; length 2.4 mm.

Head sparsely, finely punctulate, punctures coarser and closer at posterior margin; slightly more than $3/5$ as wide as anterior margin of pronotum.

Thorax more than twice as wide as long, narrowed in front; apex emarginate, base arcuate, hind angles obtuse. Surface sparsely and very minutely punctulate.

Elytra with slightly oblique humeri, obtusely rounded. Surface with 8 rows of fine, closely placed punctures; those of disc only slightly irregular; intervals flat, minutely punctulate.

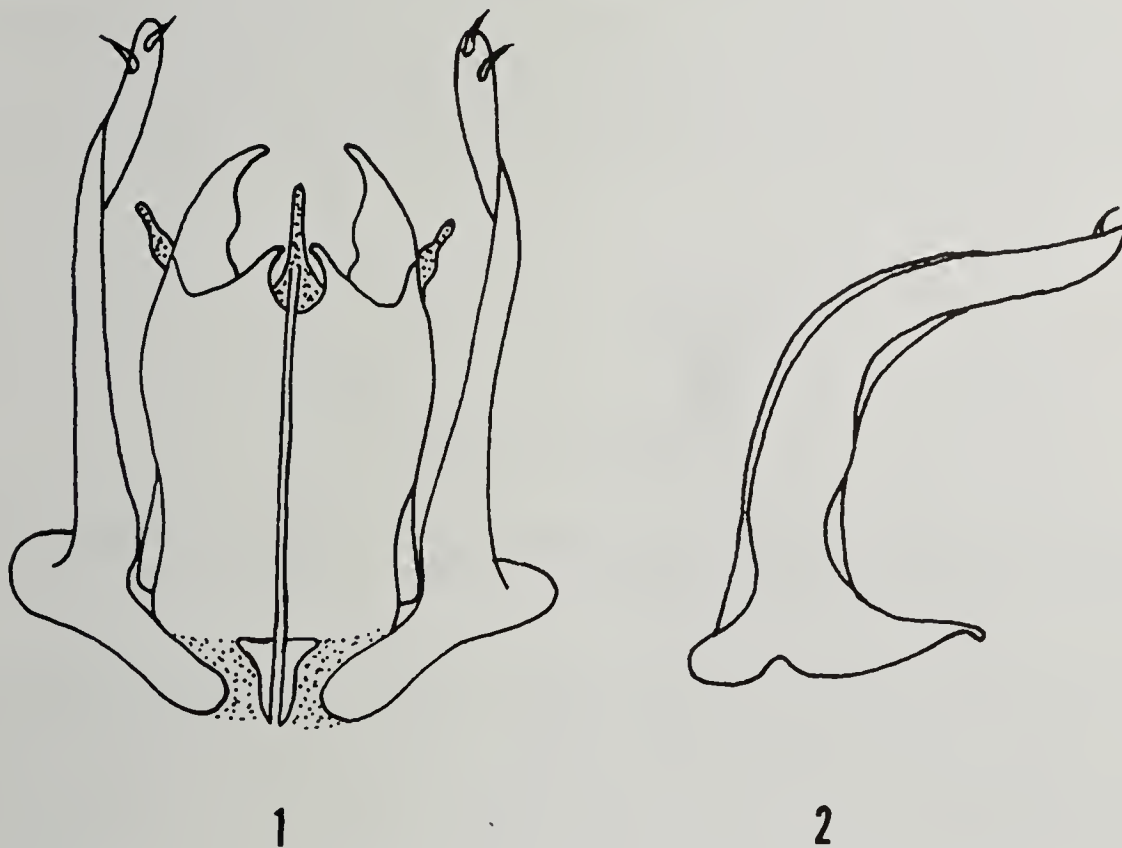


Fig. 1-2, *Isoplastus uncus* Wheeler: 1) aedeagus, dorsal view; 2) aedeagus, lateral view.

Metasternum coarsely punctured throughout, punctures larger at sides.

Abdomen six-segmented; obsoletely punctate.

Male anterior and middle tarsi little stouter than hind tarsus. Posterior femur with outer condyle prolonged into narrow unciform process. Tarsi 5-5-4, each very compressed. Femora and tibiae very broad; mesotibiae strongly and irregularly spinose, metatibiae much less so.

Aedeagus with median lobe short, broad, and ventrally curved; internal sac with pair of hook-like processes apically, pair of small membranous lobes laterally, and elongate membranous process medially; parameres long, twisted, bisetose; basal piece not connected dorsally or ventrally (figs. 1 and 2).

Female unknown.

Other characters as in generic description (Horn, 1880).

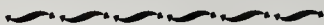
Etymology. The species is named for the form of the outer condyle on the male metafemora.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality.

Discussion. The metasternal punctation may be of diagnostic value. In *I. uncus* the punctures are coarsely impressed throughout, whereas in *I. fossor* Horn the punctures are lightly impressed or absent at the midline. However, without the female of *I. uncus*, it is best to use the characters of the male genitalia for identification. In addition, the species appear to be geographically isolated; *I. fossor* is recorded from Quebec, Michigan, Ohio, and the District of Columbia, and *I. uncus* is recorded from the state of Veracruz (Mexico). Brown (1937) discusses *I. fossor*, and figures the aedeagus.

LITERATURE CITED

- BROWN, W. J. 1937. Descriptions of some genera and species of Leiodidae. *Can. Ent.* 69:158-174.
 HORN, G. H. 1880. Synopsis of the Silphidae of the United States with reference to the genera of other countries. *Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc.* 8:219-322.



BOOK NOTICE

The Long-Horned Wood-Boring Beetles of North Dakota (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae), by John D. Stein and Arden D. Tagestad. USDA Forest Service Research Paper RM-171, pp. 1-58, illus. 1976.

For each of 73 species in 42 genera are given a photograph of the adult, the size, the distribution by counties in North Dakota with a map, a list of host plants, and a short summary of biology, time of activity, and damage caused. An index by host plants is also provided. The Literature Cited section contains many references to cerambycid biologies and a few to North Dakota distributions. Species of a few genera are omitted because of identification problems. The paper was published by Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Forest Service, USDA, Fort Collins CO 80521.

—Anonymous